

Re: Docket 98-67

FCC Commission:

We sure would pray for the FCC commissioners and staff to experience going without the telephone for just one whole day to communicate solely via TTY and then the next day only via video relay. Although this would be merely two days in your lives versus ours of a lifetime, we would be surprised if you survived either day without constant frustration. Like you, us deaf also need the so-called "telephone."

After decades without access to the telephone which was invented for the deaf, TTYs finally began to somewhat minimize our frustration. Now having experienced potent video relay our frustration is still looking forward to some relief, but unfortunately the historical frustration continues to pursue us with the minimal extent of improvement allowed by FCC.

There have always been obstacles to us obtaining functional equivalency but incredibly, the latest is FCC's main grip by pre-empting meaningful and sensible decisions that would allow video relay's potential service and technology to be extended and advance. In the past it has been the States that had to show FCC some light by taking the initiative. We ask ourselves, "why?" "Why," especially when Congress' intent is to help us attain functional equivalency to the fullest possible.

We know what it is like to waste a good portion of our life time due to minimal functional equivalency. And even more of our time is presently being wasted on this issue that is being ignored by the FCC.

With the documented popularity as indicated by users who have access to video relay service, it amazes us how the FCC can continue to turn blind eyes, deaf ears, and hard hearts to this inaccessibility that has been our scourge for decades. Disdain for the deaf? Anyone concerned about the survival of video relay has reason for grave concern. We even notice a drastic reduction in hang-ups with video relay and businesses and hearing friends have remarked how they appreciate the improvement over TTY relay.

The intent of this letter is to ask the FCC to stop the deterioration of quality video relay so that the service can provide 7/24 accessibility, seamless communication, less wait time, attain/train qualified interpreters, and continue research to further improve the product. This is the time to preserve video relay.

Larry O Bray  
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cc: Senator Diane Feinstein  
Senator Barbara Boxer  
Congressman John Doolittle